

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4782

### 1. Name

Historic 13 - 27 South Castle Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 13 - 27 South Castle Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check One

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check One

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the unit block of S. Castle St. is comprised of pairs of two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s and 1860s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main "alley" street, as well as groups of late Italianate-style houses with shed roofs and wooden, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

7 - 9 and 19- 21 S. Castle St. are pairs of gable-roofed houses built in the 1850s or 1860s. The houses are two stories in height and each two-room deep house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are now covered with formstone or stucco, which obscures all of the original details. The houses have simple brick corbelled cornices, but most are obscured by the formstone covering. Paired chimneys are located at the peak of the gable roof and at the rear end of the kitchen addition. A flat-linted sallyport runs back between 7 and 9 S. Castle, to provide service access to the rear yards on these back-to-back house lots.

Door and window openings probably had flat wood lintels and sills. The windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms but no original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles. The houses sit on low basements, some lit by a small sash, the entrances being reached by one, two, or three wood, brick, or concrete steps. The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

11 S. Castle St. is a three-story, late Italianate-style house built in the late 1880s that is 16' wide and occupies a lot 65' deep. It is constructed in running bond and was always painted. The wooden cornice consists of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets, decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a pattern of arrow-like shapes, created with a jig saw. Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels (originally with scroll-sawn tympanums, like over the doorway) and wood sills. All windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a modern six-panel door. The house sits on a low basement, the entrance being reached directly from the street. A flat-linted sallyport runs back at the south end of the house to provide service access to the rear yards on these back-to-back house lots.

**Continuation sheet**

13 – 17 1/2 S. Castle St. are a row of four two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and scroll-sawn bracketed cornices built in the late 1880s. Two of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; two others have been covered with formstone and no longer have cornices. An arched sallyport runs back between 15 and 17 S. Castle, to provide service access to the rear yards on these back-to-back house lots.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 61' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding, decorated with a cut-work band, supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with balls that connect to a lower molding strip, decorated with a small quarter-round molding, and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. A row of scroll-sawn modillions, set against a deep frieze area, decorated with a rope molding, also helps support the crown molding. The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and plain tympanums. One set of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. Doorways have single-light transoms, but two are covered with aluminum siding and the original doorway configuration of 19 S. Castle has been changed. The houses sit on medium-height basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by three concrete or marble steps.

23 S. Castle St. is actually a pair of late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and scroll-sawn bracketed cornices built in the late 1880s, that has been converted to a single house by conversion of two of the first floor openings. The houses are constructed in common bond and were always painted. The shed roof is capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves that connect to a lower molding strip, decorated with dentils. The frieze area, which also serves as ventilation for the roof, is decorated with an arabesque pattern, created with a jig saw. Window and door openings have splayed brick lintels and brick sills. Window openings are filled with modern 1/1 sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a modern replacement door. The houses sit on medium-height basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by three brick steps.

25 and 27 S. Castle St. are two individual early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple bracketed cornices built c.1875. They are two stories in height, 16' wide, and occupy lots 61' deep. 25 has been covered with formstone and the brackets have been removed from the cornice. The tall, narrow openings probably had splayed brick lintels and wood sills, and are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a modern replacement door. 27 shows an unusual design of having two tall, narrow windows on the first floor (making the house three-bays-wide) but only two wider windows on the second floor. The house is constructed in running bond and was always painted. The shed roof is capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by a row of scroll-sawn modillions set against a plain, deep frieze area. The lower frieze area, also plain, is set back slightly from the upper. Window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with scroll-sawn tympanums, and wood sills. The second floor window openings are filled with original 2/2 sash; first floor windows have 1/1 replacement sash. The doorway has been remodeled and no longer has a transom. The door is a modern six-panel door. The house sits on a low basement, lit by two single-light sash. The entrance is reached by two wide concrete steps.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1855; c. 1875; c. 1888

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The group of houses on the east side of the unit block of S. Castle St. is significant as including three different styles of working class housing built at a time when Fells Point and Canton were growing as fledgling industrial areas, with small manufacturing concerns relating to the canning industry and many different oyster and fruit packing houses. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The majority of the early inhabitants of this block were German-Americans, who received mortgages from the large variety of community based and ethnically-sponsored building and loan associations.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form**

Survey No. B-4782

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

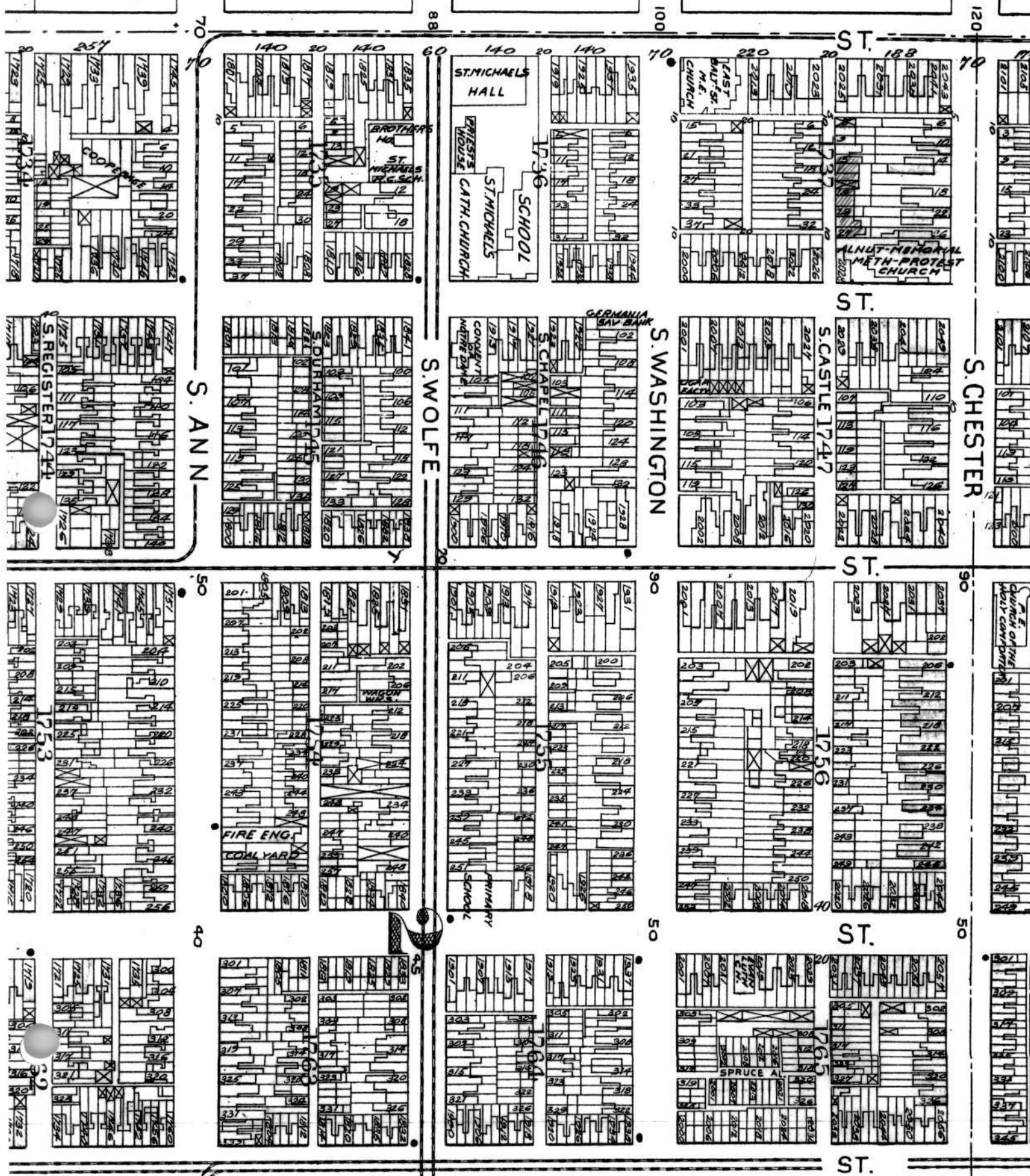
Crownsville MD 21032-2023



1906 City Atlas

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2



B-4782  
13-27 S. Castle Street  
Block 1737, Lots 073-081  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







7-9 L. Casie

178

B-4722

7-27 L. Casie St.

BALTO, MD.

C. Baltimore

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11 S Castle

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B-4777

11 S Castle St.

BALTO. MD

C. Selfman

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13-175 <sup>Castle</sup>  
Lapine

EP8

B-4782

7-27 S. Castle St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfonne

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5/8



19 1/2 S Castle

FP8

B-7-72

7-8 S. Castle St.

BAIRD. MB

C. Belgrave

6/97

4/8





21-23 S Castle  
#78

B-4782

7-27 S. Castle St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

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25 S Castle  
FPR

B-4782

7-27 S. Castle St. (25-27)

BALTO. (MD)

C. Belfiore

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25 S Castle  
FPR

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BAIRO, MD  
C. Belfour  
6/97  
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27 S Castle

FP8

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7-27 S. Castle St.

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C. Lefmore

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